

Pacific Islands Regional Office And Science Center Bycatch Implementation Plan Action Items (FY07 and FY08) and Accomplishments (FY06 and FY07)						
Action	Status/Specific Accomplishments as of 9/30/06	2007	2008	How Progress Will Be Measured and/or Monitored	Milestone	Milestone Completion Date
High-Seas Protected Species Observer Reporting System	On-going project. Gear preliminarily tested by observers aboard longline vessels. Observer comments have been recorded in observer trip reports.	System has been superseded by observer satellite telephone reporting system. In March 2006, the satellite telephone system proved to be very effective in monitoring sea turtle catch in real time by Hawaii shallow-set longline fishermen. Fishery managers were able to allow fishing for swordfish and effectively close the fishery while not exceeding ITS or regulatory interaction limits on leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles.	Use of satellite telephones by PIRO observers will continue.	The system has already been proven effective in promoting two-way communications between ship and shore. The system will continue to be evaluated on how well it allows fisheries managers to keep the numbers of leatherback and loggerhead interactions below the interaction limits set forth in the regulations.	Keeping the interaction limits for leatherback and loggerhead sea turtles below the interaction limits.	Jan-07
Cooperative PIRO/State of Hawaii Bottomfish Tagging Project	Project discontinued due to termination of bottomfish observer program.	N/A	N/A		First tag return.	N/A
Testing of Dehooking Gear on Fish Bycatch Species	On-going project. Gear preliminarily tested by observers aboard longline vessels. Observer comments have been recorded in observer trip reports.	Observers will continue to report on the effectiveness of dehooking equipment aboard Hawaii longline vessels. PIFSC personnel are currently evaluating the equipment on bycatch species aboard various research vessel platforms.	Continue evaluations.	Cruise summaries for various platforms	Test equipment on commercial fishing vessels.	On going
Protected Species Workshops for Longline Fishermen	Workshops conducted in Hawaii training 240 persons. Workshops conducted in American Samoa training 60 persons.	Protected Species Workshops conducted in American Samoa November 14- November 16, 2006. Totals will be included in next report.	Workshops are federally mandated. Therefore, workshops will continue. If longline fishery expands to Guam and CNMI, workshops will be held for longliners in those areas as well.	Records of numbers of person trained	Completion of workshops	On going

Interactive Protected Species Workshops	Completed story boards and alpha version.	Testing of beta version will be completed in November 2006.	Evaluate success of program	Summary report on progress and results of project	Implementation of finished product on PIRO server.	Feb-07
Dehooking Training for Fishermen and Observers	Trainings conducted at Protected Species Workshops and observer training sessions. Trained international observers in Pohnpei and Spain.	Continue dehooking trainings.	Continue dehooking trainings	Records kept of numbers trained		On going
Building Capacity to Minimize Seabird bycatch in Hawaii's Pelagic Longline Fisheries	48 vessels out-fitted for side-setting and bird curtains. Report on this phase of the project written	Continue to convert to side-setting on those vessels expressing interest (about 30 vessels)	Project should be complete	Records of number of vessels converted and report summarizing the project	Outfit the remaining 30 vessels expressing interest in side-setting	Aug-07
Pelagic Longline Seabird Regulation, Take Mitigation, and Handling Video	Contract awarded to second company. Script and tentative filming schedule agreed upon.	Complete polished version of seabird video with separate modules. Discrete modules will increase versatility of the video. Begin using video in Protected Species Workshops and other outreach venues.	Continue to use video in workshops and in interactive web-based workshop.	Protected Species Workshop Coordinator progress report.	Completion of Video	Mar-07
Cooperative PIRO/State of Hawaii Bottomfish Tagging Project	Dehooking materials transferred to 90 persons in Solomon Islands and Indonesia	Distribution of dehooking materials will continue in concert with sea turtle enhancement projects	Distribution of dehooking materials will continue in concert with sea turtle enhancement projects	Records will be kept of number of informational packets handed out.	Continuation of program in FY07	On going
Implementation of Seabird Bycatch Reduction Regulations	Rules requiring Hawaii pelagic longline fishermen to convert vessel to a side-setting configuration or use a suite of mitigation measure were implemented on January 20, 2006.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Jan-06
Development of International Seabird Bycatch Mitigation Requirements in Western Pacific	Worked within the context of the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC) to suggest requirements for longline vessels fishing in international waters within the treaty zone.	Will continue working within the context of WCPFC to suggest proposals for international seabird mitigation requirements.	Will continue working within the context of WCPFC to develop proposal for international seabird mitigation requirements.	Evaluations of Proposals from member nations and submission of suggested proposals.	Implementation of international requirements for longline vessels fishing in international waters within the treaty area.	Sep-07

Estimation of fishery takes of sea turtles, seabirds, and marine mammals using longline data. Note that bottomfish data will no longer be collected for Hawaii.	Historical takes estimated. Annual report of 2005 quarterly estimates for turtles, birds, and mammals in the tuna longline fishery.	Annual report of 2006 quarterly estimates for the tuna longline fleet. The swordfish longline fishery is 100% observed. Special summaries and estimates as requested. Explore observer data to look for effects of operational characteristics on bycatch rates	Annual report of 2007 quarterly estimates for the longline fleet. Special summaries and estimates as requested. Explore observer data to look for effects of operational characteristics on bycatch rates	Timely submission of PIFSC reports to PIRO	Estimate fish and protected species bycatch by Hawaii-Based Fisheries in 2005	Apr-07
Development of statistical models for the take of billfish and sharks in the tuna and swordfish longline fisheries	Three peer-reviewed papers describing techniques for identifying and correcting measurement error (misidentification, counting errors) and estimation of catch.	A fourth peer-reviewed paper on the techniques will be completed in 2007.	Work will continue to develop bycatch prediction models using fishermen logbook and observer information.	Completion of fourth paper. Application of techniques to logbook data.	Completion of fourth paper.	Sep-07
Estimation and description of fishery takes of sharks using longline logbook and observer data	Application of previously developed methods (see above) for identification and correction of measurement errors to mako, thresher, and oceanic whitetip sharks and update blue sharks. Preparation of results for peer-review article.	Generate estimates of shark bycatch in tuna longline and swordfish longline fleets. Develop descriptive models of shark bycatch.	Generate estimates of shark bycatch in tuna longline and swordfish longline fleets. Develop descriptive models of shark bycatch.	Produce annual reports on shark bycatch.	Generation of first estimate. Included with protected species bycatch estimation milestone (above)	On Going
Development and testing additional bycatch reduction technology in Hawaii fisheries	Continued contract testing of large circle hooks on 17 vessels. Tested barless circle hooks in the longline fishery. Initiated testing of deeper (all hooks deeper than 100m) longline fishing to reduce blue marlin and other epipelagic bycatch.	Complete and write papers on the '06 projects and synthesize results for management consideration.	Initiate new projects based on results of prior studies	Production of scientifically peer reviewed results. Number of publications and DQA'd reports to PIRO and the Council for management action	Provide the State Dept. and RA's with document(s) detailing potential alternatives for proposals to RFMO's on longline sea turtle bycatch reduction measures.	May-07

Cooperative testing of turtle bycatch reduction methods with other nations as a means of exporting conservation engineering.	Cooperated in studies in Japan, Korea, Phillipines, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Brazil, Mexico, Peru, Panama, Brazil, Italy, and Spain. Experiments tested diifferent treatments varying hook sizes. transferred turtle handling methodologies to above countries. Conducted Technical assistance workshop in Costa Rica in June 2006.	Continue 2006 projects and synthesisze results for management consideration.— Contract new testing of stiffer lines alternate floats, and circle hooks to reduce entanglement and leatherback turtle bycatch in South American fisheries.	Continue 2007 Projects and initiate new projects based on results of prior studies	In addition to the above, the number of countries participating and the number reporting positive results for turtle bycatch reduction or continued fishery viability.	Initiate additional Sea Turtle Bycatch Reduction Experiments contribute results synthesis to preceeding milestone (above dated May 07)	Dec-06
Shark bycatch reduction experiments using circle hooks, semiochemicals, and metals with various electronegatvities as deterrents.	Circle hooks were tested and found not to have higher shark bycatch rates than J-hooks. In November 2005, semiochemicals were tested to reduce shark bycatch.	Different metals with varying electronegativities will tested as shark deterrents on a research cruise in November 2006.	Continue experiments and write up results.	Experiments will be conducted and reported on.		
Gillnet sea turtle bycatch redcution	Working collaboratively with JIMAR/UH and twith the NGO Aquatic Adventures of San Diego California, NOAA scientists are also testing the role of lightstick use and shark shapes as possible means to reduce the incidental capture of sea turtles in coastal gill net fisheries. Work is being conducted in Baja California, Mexico.	Experiments will continue in 2007.	Experiments will continue in 2008.	Resutls will be compiled and reported.	Initiation and preliminary results of this work will be included in the "Initiate additional turtle bycatch... experiments" milestone (above)	Dec-06

Conduct and update stock assessment of species that comprise a significant bycatch	Blue shark production model assessment completed in collaboration with the National Fisheries Research Institute of Japan in June 2006.	Multifan CL model assessment will be completed and compared with production model and reported to the North Pacific ISC and the Scientific Committee of the Central and Western Pacific Tuna Commission	Conduct stock assessments of other species that comprise a significant bycatch.	Production of scientifically peer reviewed results. Number of publications and DQA'd reports to PIRO and the Council for management action		
Chair the working group on bycatch of the Interim Scientific Committee (ISC) for research on tuna...etc in the N. Pacific	First meeting and report completed in March 2006	2nd meeting will be held in April or May 2007 to develop ISC work plans for fish, turtle, and seabird bycatch research to provide scientific basis for development and establishment of conservation and management measures to the Western and Central Pacific Fishery Commission (WCPFC).	Meets at least annually	Provision of scientific advice in the form of reports and recommendations to the ISC plenary and to the WCPFC and its Northern Committee	Convene 2nd ISC Bycatch Working Group meeting and produce summary report.	Jun-07